

IMPEACHMENT.

Trial of President Andrew Johnson for High Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Secretary Welles, Frederick W. Seward and Western Editors on the Stand.

Important Testimony of Secretary Welles in Relation to the Removal of Mr. Stanton.

Another Version of the President's St. Louis Speech.

The Court to Meet at an Earlier Hour in Future.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

WASHINGTON, April 17, 1868.

The opening of the examination of Cabinet officers, during the latter portion of to-day's session of the impeachment Court, elicited great interest on the part of the large crowd assembled in the galleries. Though the Managers allowed certain preliminaries in the testimony of Secretary Welles, a lively controversy sprang up on the question of admitting the declarations of the President and other conversational matter in relation to the case of Mr. Stanton. The Managers manifested their usual hostility to anything calculated to throw light upon the real motives of the President. The counsel for the President insisted upon the admissibility of the evidence in view of what they proposed to prove. The question will come up again to-morrow.

The Butler "harangue," as well characterized by Mr. Evans yesterday, has had a very damaging effect upon the prosecution. Senators and radicals generally condemning it in no measured terms. The latter are divided on the question of its propriety, and those who denounce it do so in the most emphatic terms. A prominent radical to-day, it is understood, asked the Chief Justice why he did not call the Manager to order when using words so evidently inapplicable and vulgar. The Chief Justice had nothing to say. The Senate, having taken the jurisdiction of the court in their own hands, are alone responsible for the decency of its proceedings.

A rather good story has leaked out, in which the principal actors were Senator Grimes, of Iowa, and Mr. Stanton, ex-member of Congress from the same State. It appears that by some unaccountable means the radical guardians of the country who have their being in the State of Iowa became possessed of the idea that Senator Grimes had manifested a disposition, during the impeachment trial, to consider only the evidence brought forth for and against the articles of impeachment, entirely losing sight of the wishes of the republican party; or, to express it as they did in Iowa, "going back on them." Under this impression they took counsel together for the purpose of adopting some method of acquainting Senator Grimes with just what they expected of him when the final vote comes to be taken. A budget of documents was prepared with a view to the correction of Mr. Grimes' supposed divergence from the radical path to the untrammelled conduct of the country, and the papers were entrusted to the care of Mr. Grinnell—who, it will be remembered, is the gentleman that suffered at the hands of General Beauregard to bring to Washington and lay before Senator Grimes. Mr. Grinnell reached here yesterday, but was unfortunately enough to lose his carpet bag on the way containing the papers which were to be used in terrifying the honorable Senator into submission. This being the case, Mr. Grinnell had no recourse left but to present himself without his documentary credentials, and state orally what was the purport of the lost papers. He used every argument that suggested itself, and urged the suspected Senator to fail not in casting his vote for conviction; to which Mr. Grinnell, "It is said, received the following satisfactory reply:—You may go to—(naming a place supposed to be in an opposite direction from heaven) with your papers. I will wait my vote in this case in accordance with the law and the evidence." The reply made by Mr. Grinnell, or whether he made any, to this candid avowal of an honest man, has not transpired; but it is said no further argument was used.

General Greer, Governor of Pennsylvania, is in this city. It is understood he comes here to give the encouragement of his presence to the success of impeachment. Fernando Wood returned to Washington to-day from New York, having been summoned as a witness on behalf of the President. It is said that the object is to examine him as to a conversation with the President on the 22d of February relative to the removal of Secretary Stanton. The Cabinet convened this morning at ten o'clock, all the members being present, and finished up the business before it by noon. The object of meeting at an earlier hour than usual was that the members of the Cabinet might have an opportunity of conferring with the President's counsel, who arrived at the White House and were in consultation with the President for some time previous to the meeting of the Cabinet.

The members of the President's counsel present were Messrs. Evans, Curtis, Nelson and Groves. Mr. Stanton was not sufficiently recovered from his illness to attend to the trial, which was more than two hours. The matters under discussion, it is said, have a very important bearing upon the defence in the pending impeachment trial.

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and property. I wish to know whether it is right for any Senator to defend the Secretary of the Treasury against the attacks here made, or whether our mouths are closed while these attacks are made; and if not proper and right for a Senator, whether it is the right of the Managers to make the attack upon him.

The Chief Justice—An amendment can be made to a resolution proposed by the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Ferry). If the Senator thinks it proper the Senate can refuse consideration. If the Senator makes that motion the Chair thinks it proper that the honorable Manager should be heard in explanation.

Mr. BUTLER—I wish to say that I did not read them because I thought them voluminous. I had them in my hand, and I made them a part of my argument. I read the conclusions and inferences to be drawn from them, and thought it was due to myself and the Senate that they should be put exactly as they were, and I therefore incorporated them in the Globe. For the remarks of the honorable Senator (Mr. Hendricks), I simply say that I made no attack upon the Secretary of the Treasury. I said nothing of him. I did not know that he had been at all to be discussed; but I dealt with the acts as the acts of the Executive simply. Whenever called upon I can show the reason why I dealt with those acts.

The Chief Justice—The Senator from Indiana (Mr. Hendricks) to ask if under the rules he could be permitted to make a defence of the Secretary of the Treasury?

The Chief Justice—The rules positively prohibit debate.

Senator ANTHONY—By unanimous consent it might be made.

Some Senator objected. The order was then adopted but few dissenting voices.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM W. ARMSTRONG.

Wm. W. Armstrong was sworn and examined by Mr. CURTIS.

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